

11/8

C738

**Question Without Notice  
Of which some notice has been given**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Hon. Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the acknowledged problem of industrially-generated dust at Port Hedland's West End, and the DPLH Document 'city growth strategy (Precinct 1 West End)', available at [https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/fac131e4-aa0d-4194-b261-763acbca5dee/LST-Port-Hedland-PPC-Growth-Plan-5-City-Growth-Strategy-\(Precinct-1-West-End\)](https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/fac131e4-aa0d-4194-b261-763acbca5dee/LST-Port-Hedland-PPC-Growth-Plan-5-City-Growth-Strategy-(Precinct-1-West-End)), and I ask:

1. Can the Minister reconcile the population projections in the document, with the fact that the Government is currently buying back abandoned properties in the West End?
2. Given page 77 of the document states that noise and dust levels "have historically been above currently-accepted recommended levels", can the Minister please elaborate on the use of the word "historically" and explain how such levels were monitored *historically*?
3. Can the Minister give comment on the schematic at page 73, which suggests the entire town will be surrounded by strategic/heavy industry?
4. With reference to (4), can the Minister confirm that surrounding the town with heavy industry will in no way exacerbate the existing dust issues?
5. Does the Minister think the beautification of footpaths is really a concern of residents of Port Hedland, given that many have had to abandon their properties due to the dust problem?

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**Answer**

1-5 The document you refer to appears to be an extract from the Pilbara's Port City Growth Plan, which was adopted by the Town of Port Hedland in December 2012.

The Growth Plan was prepared at the height of the mining boom when significantly higher population targets were projected. Importantly the Plan was developed before the Department of Health's Dust Taskforce Report was finalised in 2016. In 2018 in response to the Dust Report we committed to cap residential growth in the West End.

The Town of Port Hedland is currently calling for submissions on a draft Local Planning Strategy based on more realistic goals for population growth in Port Hedland.

The WA State Government, through the Western Australian Planning Commission, is developing an Improvement Scheme for Port Hedland's West End.